

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph:

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to replace the phrase “storing at least one packet transmitted to the network” with “storing at least one packet to be transmitted to the network”. No new matter has been added through this amendment, and reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

2. Rejection of claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr et al. (US 2004/0064950) in view of Lo et al. (US 6,667,983).

Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the steps of “storing a packet data corresponding to a packet in the memory”, “transmitting the packet data **from the memory to the buffer** for storing the packet data in the buffer before transmission to the network” and “**storing another packet data corresponding to another packet in the memory in response to transferring the packet data from the memory to the buffer**”. All amendment to claim 1 are fully supported in the specification and figures, such as paragraphs [0035] and [0036] and figures 10-13. In addition, dependent claims 2, 3, 5, and 11 have been amended to be consistent with the amended claim 1. No new matter is added through any of the

claim amendments.

On the other hand, the cited prior art, taken separately or in combination, fails to teach storing packet data in memory, then transmitting the packet data from the memory to a buffer, and storing another packet in the memory in response to transmitting the packet data from the memory to the buffer.

Hsu (US 2003/0227928) teaches in paragraph [0035] and in Figure 2 storing a data packet received through an external network 21 in a buffer 222 before the data packet is sent to the computer host 20. However, Hsu does not teach transmitting the data packet from a memory of a network interface circuit to a buffer of the network interface circuit, and then storing another data packet in the memory in response to transmitting the data packet from the memory to the buffer.

Although Starr teaches in paragraph [0046] storing data in the INIC memory 46, Starr also does not teach storing a data packet from a memory of a network interface circuit to a buffer of the network interface circuit, and then storing another data packet in the memory in response to transmitting the data packet from the memory to the buffer.

Although Lo teaches in col.6, lines 26-57 storing more than one packet pointer in the FIFO entry point circuit, Lo does not teach storing a data packet from a memory of a network interface circuit to a buffer of the network interface circuit, and then storing another data packet in the memory in response to transmitting the data packet from the memory to the buffer. Besides, Lo teaches storing more than one packet pointers, and not data packets.

Therefore, for the above reasons the applicant respectfully submits that the cited prior art references fail to teach all of the limitations of the currently amended claim 1. Claims 3-5 and 7 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Claims 8 and 9 have been cancelled, and are no longer in need of
5 consideration. Reconsideration of claims 1, 3-5, and 7 is therefore respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 2 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 2 and 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable
10 over Starr in view of Lo in further view of Hsu et al. (US 2003/0227928).

Response:

Claims 10 and 12 have been cancelled, and are no longer in need of consideration. Claims 2 and 11 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if
15 claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 2 and 11 is therefore respectfully requested.

4. Rejection of claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr and
20 Lo in further view of Hsu, and in further view of Rajamony et al. (US 7,089,282).

Response:

Claim 6 has been amended to recite “the portion of another packet data replaces the first portion of the packet data in the memory”. Claim 7 has
25 been amended to recite “the portion of another packet is sequentially stored in the memory”. The amendments to claims 6 and 7 are fully supported in the specification in paragraph [0042]. No new matter is added through any of the claim amendments.

Besides, claim 6 is dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claim 6 is therefore respectfully requested.

5 5. Rejection of claims 13-16, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 13-16, 18, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr in view of Hsu.

Response:

10 Similar to claim 1, claim 13 has been amended to state that a buffer of the network interface circuit stores packet data before transmitting the packet data to the network. Claim 13 also recites that in response to the memory transmitting the packet data to the buffer, the check circuit enables the memory to generate an interrupt request signal. A memory
15 access circuit then receives the interrupt request signal, which causes the memory access circuit to store another packet data corresponding to another packet in the memory.

 Besides, Hsu's feature value evaluator 223 commands the MAC 221 to assert
20 the interrupt signal to the computer host 20, as Hsu teaches in paragraph [0035]. However, Hsu's feature value evaluator 223 by itself does not assert the interrupt signal and the interrupt signal is sent to the computer host 20, not to the memory access circuit like the check circuit of claim 13 does.

25 As mentioned above with respect to claim 1, the cited prior art, taken separately or in combination, fails to teach storing packet data in memory, then transmitting the packet data from the memory to a buffer, and storing another packet in the memory in response to transmitting the packet data from the memory to the

buffer. As such the applicant submits that claim 13 is patentable over the cited prior art references.

5 Claims 14, 15, and 18 have been amended to be consistent with the amended claim 13. No new matter is added through any of the claim amendments. Claims 14, 15, 18, and 20 are dependent on claim 13, and should be allowed if claim 13 is allowed. Claim 16 has been cancelled, and is no longer in need of consideration. Reconsideration of claims 13-15, 18, and 20 is therefore respectfully requested.

10 6. Rejection of claims 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

 Claims 17 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Starr in view of Hsu, in further view of Lo.

Response:

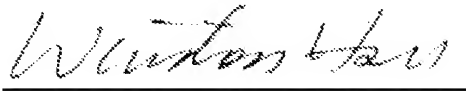
15 Claims 17 and 19 are dependent on claim 13, and should be allowed if claim 13 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 17 and 19 is therefore respectfully requested.

 In view of the claim amendments and the above arguments in favor of patentability, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this
20 case.

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Sincerely yours,



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- 10 Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan.)